

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, is the...does the, I will call it non-Medicaid, for lack of a better term, is this routine test paid by all parents in most cases, and it's routinely paid as part of the hospital bill?

SENATOR BYARS: It's...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Or is it an option?

SENATOR BYARS: It's an option. At this point, it's not mandated that the screening be done, so it is up to the parents to make the request.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Do you know if most parents do this as a matter of routine?

SENATOR BYARS: No, they don't. Right now Medicaid requires that all high-risk babies be tested. That amounts to about 50 percent of the Medicaid eligible infants right now. The...we can't get a handle on the number that are being tested across the state percentagewise at this point, but it's a substantially less number than the...than the 23,000 births that we have. Primarily, we're seeing testing done in the metropolitan areas now, at the larger hospitals that, quite honestly, have the resources to be able to do this. The rural hospitals understand they need to do it, but they've told me, very clearly, that they...they want to move in that direction and this is going to help them do that.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Who is paying for the mandated high-risk now?

SENATOR BYARS: Medicaid.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And...and are we paying our share of that at this point, too?

SENATOR BYARS: Yes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: So we already have it in statute that we pay for the high-risk?